



ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

As amended December 21, 2021

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

(Effective: January 11, 2022)

Sec. 1-1. Feeding of Birds. No person shall feed or bait any bird upon any public property within the congested business area, as defined in the ordinance governing Licenses, Permits and Business Regulations.

ARTICLE II. DOGS

Sec. 2-1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings given herein:

Dog shall be intended to mean both male and female.

Owner shall be intended to mean any person or persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping, or harboring a dog.

At large means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person by means of a leash or personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of such dog.

Sec. 2-2. License.

Each owner of a dog of the age of six (6) months or older must secure a license for such from the city clerk pursuant to all rules and regulations set forth in 7 M.R.S.A., Section 3451.

Sec. 2-3. Running at large.

Any dog running at large may be seized and impounded. The owner of such dog commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be adjudged, no portion of which shall be suspended or deferred.

Sec. 2-4. Number of dogs limited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor within the city more than four (4) dogs over four (4) months old in or about any premises, house, barn or other building, or in or about all buildings on any one (1) premises occupied by any one (1) family, and the keeping or harboring of dogs as aforesaid is hereby declared to be a nuisance. In Rural Residential (R-R) zones, the limit shall be 10 dogs. (More than 10 dogs shall be deemed "Animal Husbandry", which is regulated by Sec. 4.3.3 and Sec. 5.2.2(F) of the City's Zoning Ordinance).

(b) The payment for a license or licenses on dogs shall not be construed to allow the keeping of more than the number of allowed dogs, as aforesaid, on any one premises.

(c) This limitation shall not apply to any person engaged in the commercial business of breeding, buying, selling or boarding of dogs, or operating a veterinary hospital as long as any such operation complies with all zoning and other city ordinances and state licensing requirements.

Cross references: Kennels and veterinary hospitals allowed as special exceptions in RR zone, Appendix A, Zoning, § V(A)(5)(c)(3).

Sec. 2-5. Barking or howling dogs.

A dog shall be considered a nuisance if it:

- a. Damages, soils. Defiles or defecates on public walks and recreation areas, or on private property other than property owned by the dog owner, unless such waste is immediately removed and properly disposed of by the dog owner and any damage is corrected by the dog owner;
- b. Causes unsanitary, dangerous, or offensive conditions;
- c. Causes a disturbance by excessive barking or other noise making;
- d. Chases vehicles;
- e. Molests, attacks or otherwise interferes with any other person or domestic animal on property not owned by the dog owner; or
- f. When not on private property, dogs must be leashed.

Sec. 2-6. Remedy for Dogs found to be Nuisances.

- a. This ordinance shall be enforced by the Animal Control Officer of the Waterville Police.
- b. The owner of any dog found to be a nuisance shall be in violation of this Ordinance. If the Animal Control Officer of the Waterville Police determines that a dog is a nuisance, the owner shall be immediately notified and given the opportunity to correct the nuisance.
- c. Failure to correct the nuisance or otherwise comply with this Ordinance is a civil violation for which is imposed a forfeiture of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a first offense and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a second or subsequent offense.

State law references: Licensing, 7 M.R.S.A. §§ --3921-3925 dogs running at large, 7 M.R.S.A. §§3913; owner must pay impoundment fees, 7 M.R.S.A. § 3951-3955 dangerous dogs, 7 M.R.S.A. § 3961 owner liable for damages, , 22 M.R.S.A. § 1311; quarantine

APPROVED

Waterville City Council
Effective: September 30, 2006
(Ordinance 14-2006)

Waterville City Council
Effective: July 28, 2021
(Ordinance 134-2021)

Waterville City Council
Effective: January 11, 2022
(Ordinance 259-2021)